

## **CIVE5609 [0.5 Credit] – Fall 2025**

### **Fundamentals of Fire Safety**

**Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering**

#### **Teaching Team**

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**Instructor: Dr. Mohamed Beshir**

**[mohamedbeshir@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:mohamedbeshir@cunet.carleton.ca)**

**Office: Mackenzie - EDC building, Office 4533**

**TA(s):** Information will be posted on Brightspace

**Office hours:** TBD

Note: Email is the preferred way of communication outside classes and office hours. Carleton email accounts must be used for all correspondence related to the course. Please include “CIVE5609\_Fall25” in the subject line of your email.

#### **Course Description and requirements**

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##### **1) Course schedule**

Tuesdays 6:05 PM – 8:55 PM

##### **2) Course description**

This course introduces the core principles and practices of fire safety, with a focus on their application in the built environment and broader society. Students will examine the scope of the fire problem and its impacts on people, property, the economy, and the environment. Topics include building fire safety systems - such as active fire protection, detection, suppression, and smoke management - and the fire safety design process in both prescriptive and performance-based code contexts. The course also covers the fundamentals of fire investigation, including methods for determining fire causes and identifying preventive measures.

An additional module will address the growing challenge of wildland fires in Canada, exploring strategies to protect communities and reduce environmental risks.

The course consists of three hours of lectures per week, supplemented by activities assigned by the instructor. Delivery will be in person and will feature guest lectures from national and international experts in the field.

##### **3) Text book(s)/References**

- Dougle Drysdale, An Introduction to Fire Dynamics
- SFPE Handbook of Fire Protection Engineering
- Richard, L.P. Custer and Brian J. Meacham, Introduction to Performance-Based Fire Safety

- SFPE Engineering Guide to Performance-Based Fire Protection Design
- Andrew H. Buchanan, Structural Design for Fire Safety

#### 4) Communications

All course information and material will be available through BrightSpace. All assignments must be submitted through BrightSpace. All students are responsible for ensuring they are correctly registered through BrightSpace and receive messages properly through their official university email address. Students are responsible for checking the BrightSpace course management site and their official email account frequently.

Primary tool for communications is through email, replies are expected within 24 hours. Requests for in-person meetings at the office must first be confirmed by the instructor. Response is not expected on weekends and holidays. Emails must come from an official Carleton email address or through BrightSpace.

#### 5) Topics and tentative plan

Schedule is subject to change; the exact date and time of the final exam is determined by Examination Services.

Date	Session	Title
Sept. 9	Week 1	Introduction
Sept. 16	Week 2	Heat Transfer
Sept. 23	Week 3	Fire Dynamics
Sept. 30	Week 4	Structure Design in Fire
Oct. 7	Week 5	Smoke Management
Oct. 14	Week 6	Risk Assessment in Fire
Oct. 28	Week 7	Wildland Fires & Society
Nov. 4	Week 8	Fire/Smoke Detection & Suppression
Nov. 11	Week 9	Building Codes
Nov. 18	Week 10	Intro. to Human Behaviour in Fire
Nov. 25	Week 11	Human Behaviour in Fire II
Dec. 2	Week 12	Groups Presentations (Assignment 2)

#### 6) Evaluation and marking scheme

##### Final Examination

- Final exams are for evaluation purpose and will not be returned to students. Final exam date is determined by examination services.

- **Final Exam Weight:** 50% of the final grade.

##### b) Assignments:

- **Assignment 1 (Individual):** 25% of the total grade, 14<sup>th</sup> of October (tentative)

- **Assignment 2 (Groups):** 25% of the total grade, 2<sup>nd</sup> of December (tentative)

**c) Exam format**

Open book – calculators allowed

**d) Late submission policy**

Late submissions will be considered on a case-by-case basis and must be discussed with the course instructor. Please note that approval for late submissions will only be granted under exceptional circumstances

**e) Deferred term work and self declaration**

Students who claim extenuating circumstances defined in the Academic Consideration Policy, as a reason for missed term work are held responsible for immediately informing the instructor concerned and for making alternate arrangements with the instructor and in all cases. This must occur no later than three (3) days after the term work was due. The alternate arrangement must be made before the last day of classes in the term as published in the academic schedule. Consult Section 4.4 of the University Calendar.

## 7) Academic dates

Students should be aware of the academic dates (e.g. last day for academic withdrawal) posted on the Registrar's office web site <https://carleton.ca/registrar/registration/dates/academic-dates/>

## Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

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- a) Please consult the Faculty of Engineering and Design information page about the Academic Integrity policy and our procedures: <https://carleton.ca/engineering-design/current-students/fed-academic-integrity> Violations of the Academic Integrity Policy will result in the assignment of a penalty such as reduced grades, the assignment of an F in a course, a suspension or, expulsion.
- b) One of the main objectives of the Academic Integrity Policy is to ensure that **the work you submit is your own**. As a result, it is important to write your own solutions when studying and preparing with other students and to avoid plagiarism in your submissions. The University Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source.
- c) Use of **Chatgpt/Generative AI/LLMs based** tools is permitted to assist you with your writing quality, organization or to validate and **only validate** your answers. Generation of entire parts of your work completely through AI tools is prohibited and will be penalized.

Examples of violations of the policy include, but are not limited to:

- Any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else.
- Using another's data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one's own; and
- Failing to acknowledge sources of information using proper citations when using another's work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

## Copyright

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The materials (including the course outline and any slides, posted notes, videos, labs, project, assignments, quizzes, exams and solutions) created for this course and posted on this web site are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed or posted on any web site without prior written permission from the author(s).

## Learning and Working Environment

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The University and all members of the University community share responsibility for ensuring that the University's educational, work and living environments are free from discrimination and harassment. Should you have concerns about harassment or discrimination relating to your age, ancestry, citizenship, colour, creed (religion), disability, ethnic origin, family status, gender expression, gender identity, marital status, place of origin, race, sex (including pregnancy), or sexual orientation, please contact the Department of Equity and Inclusive Communities at [equity@carleton.ca](mailto:equity@carleton.ca)

We will strive to create an environment of mutual respect for all through equity, diversity, and inclusion within this course. The space which we work in will be safe for everyone. Please be considerate of everyone's personal beliefs, choices, and opinions.

## Academic Accommodations

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You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

**Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at **613-520-6608** or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca)

You should request your academic accommodations in the [Ventus Student Portal](#), for each course at the beginning of every term. For in-term tests or midterms, please request accommodations at least two (2) weeks before the first test or midterm. Please consult the [PMC website](#) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally scheduled exam (if applicable).

**Accommodation for Student Activities:** Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, see the [Senate Policy on Accommodation for Student Activities \(PDF\)](#).

**Pregnancy Obligation:** Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, please review the [Student Guide to Academic Accommodation \(PDF\)](#).

**Religious Obligation:** Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, please review the [Student Guide to Academic Accommodation \(PDF\)](#).

**Survivors of Sexual Violence:** As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit the [Sexual Violence Prevention & Survivor Support](#).

## Engineering Academic Advising

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The [Engineering Academic Support Service](#) assists undergraduate engineering students with course selection, registration, and learning support from first year through to graduation.

Academic Advisors Contact can be found here: <https://carleton.ca/engineering-design/current-students/undergrad-academic-support/undergraduate-advisors/>.

## Student Mental Health and Wellness

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As a university student you may experience a range of mental health challenges that can significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. Carleton's Wellness Services Navigator is designed to help students connect with mental health and wellness resources.

If you need to talk to someone from the department for more information and support with connecting to resources, you can contact the following faculty members, depending on your program. Or contact the department at [or CEEUGChair@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:CEEUGChair@cunet.carleton.ca).

**ACSE:** Prof. Elie Azar

Email: [Elie.Azar@carleton.ca](mailto:Elie.Azar@carleton.ca), Office: 4204 Canal

**CIVE:** Prof. Christian Viau

Email: [Christian.Viau@carleton.ca](mailto:Christian.Viau@carleton.ca) , Office: 4535 Mackenzie

**ENVE:** Prof. Cole Van De Ven

Email: [cole.vandeven@carleton.ca](mailto:cole.vandeven@carleton.ca) , Office: 6210 Canal Building

Here is a list of on-campus and off-campus recourses:

1. **Carleton's Wellness Desk:** Located at 204A MacOdrum Library, is a space for students to learn about resources, connect with our Wellness Coordinator, and decompress during stressful times of the year. You can pop into the Wellness Desk any time during its hours of operation – no appointments necessary! <https://wellness.carleton.ca/mental-health/wellness-desk/>
2. **Carleton's Health and Counselling Services:** To book an appointment contact the main clinic by calling (613) 520-6674. If urgent, let the Patient Care Coordinator know or go in person to the main clinic (2500 Carleton Technology and Training Centre Building) and indicate that they are in crisis and need to speak to someone right away. <https://carleton.ca/health/>
3. **Residence Counselling and Wellness Service:** Counselling services specifically for students in residence. <https://carleton.ca/health/residence-counselling/>
4. **Therapy Dogs:** Carleton's therapy dogs are around campus with their owners (who are Carleton University staff and faculty) to comfort and provide support to help you thrive as a university student. <https://carleton.ca/wellness/dogs/>
5. Emergencies and Crisis and Emergency Numbers
6. **Good2Talk (1-866-925-5454):** Good2Talk is a free, confidential helpline providing professional counselling and information and referrals for mental health, addictions and well-being to post-secondary students in Ontario, 24/7/36 <https://good2talk.ca/>
7. **Empower Me:** Undergraduate students have access to free counselling services in the community through Empower Me, either in person, by telephone, video-counselling or e-counselling. **This free service is accessible 24/7, 365 days per year.** Call **1-844-741-6389 (toll free)** to make an appointment with a counsellor in the community. More

information is available <https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services/>

8. **The Walk-In Counselling Clinic (off-campus community resource):** The walk-in Counselling Clinic have offices in various locations across Ottawa and the greater Champlain region that are open 7 days a week. Individuals will be assisted, with no appointment, on a first-come, first-serve basis during the Walk-in Counselling Clinic hours. The Walk-in Counselling Clinic **offers services in many languages** and is free and confidential. More information can be found at: <https://walkincounselling.com/>
9. **Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region:** Available 10am-11pm, 7 days/week, 365 days/year. **Distress Line:** 613-238-3311, **Crisis Line:** 613-722-6914 or 1-866-996-0991, **Text:** 343-306-5550. <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
10. **Distress and Crisis Ontario,** Available for chat 2 pm – 2 am EST.  
<https://www.dontario.org/>
11. **BounceBack Ontario (Toll-Free: 1-866-345-0224)** is a free skill-building program managed by the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA). It is designed to help adults and youth 15+ manage low mood, mild to moderate depression and anxiety, stress or worry. Delivered over the phone with a coach and through online videos, you will get access to tools that will support you on your path to mental wellness.  
<https://bouncebackontario.ca/>